

Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1098

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 17977

EMO. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EI, FR

SUBJECT: IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S VISIT TO PARIS

1. IRISH FONMIN FITZGERALD MET WITH FRENCH FONMIN SAUVAGNARGUES IN PARIS JULY 17, RETURNING TO DUBLIN THE NEXT MORNING. QUAI OFFICIAL WHO PARTICIPATED IN FITZGERALD VISIT TOLD US THAT UK-EC ISSUE DOMINATED DISCUSSION, WITH IRISH SIDE URGING FRENCH TO BE MORE FLEXIBLE IN ACCOMMODATING BRITISH POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC GOALS IN UK "RENEGOTIATION." FRENCH TOOK HARD LINE, SAYING IT IS UP TO BRITISH TO CHOOSE WHETHER THEY WISH TO STAY IN EC OR NOT. WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF EXISTING EC TREATY, UK TREATY OF ACCESSION AND CURRENT OPERATION OF EC, FRENCH ARE PREPARED TO MAKE SOME TEMPORARY CHANGES TO ACCOMMODATE UK PROBLEMS. FRENCH TOLD IRISH, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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THAT THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO ACQUIESCE IN FUNDAMENTAL

CHANGES TO EC "RULES OF THE GAME."

2. IRISH ALSO RAISED ENERGY PROBLEM, APPARENTLY LOOKING FOR SOME WAY TO MOVE FRENCH TOWARD ASSOCIATION WITH THE ECG. SAUVAGNARGUES REPLIED THAT PRIORITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO DEVELOPMENT OF COMMON EC ENERGY POLICY.

3. COMMENT: OUR QUAI SOURCE IS CONVINCED THAT, SHOULD UK DECIDE TO LEAVE EC, IRELAND WILL HAVE TO FOLLOW LONDON'S LEAD -- BOTH FOR ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL (READ NORTHERN IRELAND) REASONS. THIS LATEST MEETING WITH THE IRISH ONLY SERVED TO CONFIRM HIS CONVICTION.
IRWIN

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